



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: SCOTT STREET STATION SITE (DURRETT-SHEPPARD)

Site Location

The site was a coal gas manufacturing plant, which encompassed the entire block south of W. Ostend Street between Wicomico Street (to the west), and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (to the east) in Baltimore City. The block consists of 15.98 acres. The coordinates for the center of the original Scott Street Station acreage are latitude 39° 16.685' North and longitude 076° 37.910' West.

The site was split into two parcels following dissolution of the station. The western portion was acquired by Durrett-Sheppard and the eastern portion by the B&O Railroad.

Site History

The Peoples Gas Company started plant operations in 1871. In 1880, the plant was operated by the Consolidated Gas Company of Baltimore, and plant production declined considerably. In 1886, production at the Scott Street Station was terminated. By 1955, the Consolidated Gas Company of Baltimore had become the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BG&E).

Scott Street Station employed a process known as carbonization. When produced by this method, manufactured gas contains many impurities. The exact purification process used at this plant are not known. Typically during this era, ferric oxide purification was utilized. This purification method generated spent oxide that had to be disposed.

The quantities of by-product wastes generated at the Scott Street Station are not known. No information regarding coal-tar or oxide wastes storage or disposal at the site is available. The former purifier house is the only existing building recognized from the original plant. No information on the dismantling of the equipment used is known.

Environmental Investigation and Action

MDE conducted a site visit on July 1, 1986. Based on observations and available information, a low priority site investigation with appropriate sampling was recommended.

In June 1994, Environmental Management Group, Inc. conducted an Environmental Site Assessment of the Durrett-Sheppard site located at 1301 Wicomico Street.



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Durrett-Sheppard acquired the eastern half of the property after Consolidated Gas Company ceased operations. In 2003, MDE performed a Brownfield Site Assessment of the Durrett-Sheppard Property. A toxicological assessment found that contaminants in site soils exceeded recommended levels for child visitor and construction worker populations.

Current Status

The property is occupied by numerous tenant companies. The site has not been fully addressed but due to the owner's request, has been allowed to remain unassessed.



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